

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register: 07 March 1997
Name of applicant/court: Blue Angel Films
Applicant to the Labelling Body: Not Applicable
Title of Publication: Salo o le 120 Giornate di Sodoma
Other Known Titles: Salo: 120 Days of Sodom
Director: Pier Paolo Pasolini
Producer: Alberto Grimaldi
Publisher: Not Applicable
Author: Not Applicable
Format: Film 35mm
Country of Origin: Italy
Language: Italian with English subtitles

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Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Salo o le 120 Giornate di Sodoma	Running time:	114.07
Trailers:	Nil	Running time:	
		Total Running time:	114.07

Excision/Alteration: No.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the publication is used for the purpose of screening at the 1997 International Film Festival or for the purpose of film and media studies in tertiary institutions.

And

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Display conditions:

Nil.

Descriptive Note:

Contains graphic violence.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on 28 February 1997

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The 35mm film entitled *Salò o le 120 Giornate di Sodoma* is classified as:
Objectionable except if the publication is used for the purpose of screening at the 1997 International Film Festival or for the purpose of film and media studies in tertiary institutions.

And

If the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Note: (see attached schedule for locations and screening dates).

The film depicts violence and cruelty being inflicted on young persons, who are the prisoners of a group of sadistic captors.

Central to and occurring throughout the film are depictions of torture, cruelty, serious physical harm, sexual violence, and sexual and physical conduct of a highly degrading nature. In that the subjects of this activity are teenagers, it also depicts coercive sexual conduct with young persons and the nudity of young persons. Many of the activities depicted are extreme in nature, such as an extended torture scene, or a scene in which the young people are made to consume their own faeces. Despite the fact that the perpetrators are depicted as sadists who derive sexual pleasure from inflicting pain and cruelty, their activities are not presented in a titillatory manner, but in a way that shocks and repels the viewer.

The film is acknowledged to have artistic and cultural significance. However, the impact of the film's depictions is such that it is considered that its availability is likely to be injurious to the public good, even if it is restricted to an adult audience. Likely injury would be minimised by making it available for strictly defined purposes. The rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 are also acknowledged, and necessitate the lowest possible level of restriction consistent with minimising injury. Consideration was given to these factors when classifying this publication.

OFLC Ref: 9700188